

(Youngstown, OH) Today, U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) announced a \$20 million investment in the Kent Multi-Modal Transportation Center – a critical component of the Kent Central Gateway Project – through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Funding for the Kent Multi-Modal Transportation Center will leverage an estimated \$105 million in public and private investment, create approximately 1,000 jobs (300 construction and 700 permanent), and provide a projected \$5.8 million increase in annual tax revenue. According to the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority, each dollar invested in the Kent Central Gateway Project will stimulate an additional \$4 in new investment in Kent and Portage County. Congressman Ryan has previously secured over \$1.4 million for the initial phases of this far-reaching project.

Congressman Ryan stated, **"This is absolutely fantastic news for Kent and Portage County, and further proof that the Obama Administration's stimulus package is putting people to work while improving the fabric of our communities.□ The Multi-Modal Transportation Center is the lynchpin of the Kent Central Gateway Project – a massive, community-wide redevelopment effort that will showcase all of the vibrant economic, social, and educational amenities that downtown Kent and Kent State University have to offer."**

"I would also like to thank President Obama and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and their staff members," the Congressman added. **"Without their support and the availability of critical stimulus funds, this project would not be possible."**

The construction of the Kent Multi-Modal Transportation Center in downtown Kent will improve transit accessibility and provide needed regional linkages to Cleveland and Akron. This innovative, eco-friendly project includes ten bus bays with indoor/outdoor waiting areas, as well as retail, restaurant, and office space. Construction is expected to begin on this shovel-ready project within nine months.

Additional developments in the Kent Central Gateway Project include: main street restoration, a hotel and conference center, a downtown corporate campus, Haymaker Parkway improvements, Acorn Alley and the Phoenix Project, and the Kent State University Esplanade extension.

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